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Drew University

ACORN

Madison, New Jersey 07940

Volume LX No.5

October 2, 1987

DrewScene

Theme house events

STUDENTS had the opportunity to sample the true international flavor of the Drew community as the French, German, Spanish, and International Houses held open houses on September 18.

This international get-together allowed the students to familiarize themselves with the houses, their activities, and their residents. Foreign food was served, many different languages were spoken, and a real international atmosphere was created.

Outstanding attendance turned the event into a success, according to the theme house residents, but they emphasized that more activities are yet to come.

The French House, located in Lewis House, currently houses 12 students. HA Richard Alembik said he hopes that "the international houses will make the students more aware of other cultures."

The residents of the French House are stressing the importance of the French language throughout the world and like to think of the French House as a "Francophone House." The students are planning to present several French films and to host guest lecturers from NYU and Columbia.

Moved from its former location in Sitterly to Davies, the Spanish House currently contains 11 students. HA Tony Infanti said he hoped that the open house gave other students the chance to see where the house was located, encouraging them to come by a second time.

"The Spanish House, along with Ariel, the Spanish society, has several activities planned for the upcoming school year," said Infanti. These include an Ariel picnic on the lawn of the house, as well as Spanish movies and dinners.

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WMNJ controversy unfolds

By Anne Weber
News Editor
and Dale Peck
Staff Writer

CONTROVERSY surrounding WMNJ's programming format and the station's responsibilities as the "voice of Drew University" culminated in a heated discussion last Tuesday night in Haselton basement.

The meeting was held at the request of Ken Weingarten, an ex-deejay for WMNJ. Executive board members Melissa Kennedy, Colleen Dube, Dalton Einhorn, Craig Bonnell, and Audra Daninhirsch were in attendance, as well as several ex-deejays and ECAB Chair Pat Foye.

Einhorn, WMNJ News Director and one of several former deejays who didn't get shows this year, opened the meeting, claiming he wanted to "get everything out in the open, clear the myths, get down to the questions, and the answers."

The present controversy focuses on the radio station's decision to enforce the rule that primetime broadcasting hours be reserved solely for alternative programming.

Air Staff Director Colleen Dube stated



Acorn Photo/Christy Applegate

Tim Terhune broadcasts as the WMNJ controversy continues.

that the present format was developed and approved at an executive board meeting before the start of the semester. "At that time, we decided that 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. would be strictly Progressive, with Heavy Metal on Saturday night and Jazz on Sunday," said Dube.

According to Einhorn, the meeting was unofficial, since only six of the twelve executive board members were present and a two-thirds vote is required to pass any board decisions.

"WMNJ has always reserved primetime

for alternative music, but the format was never strictly followed," said Dube. At Tuesday's meeting, General Manager Melissa Kennedy asserted that the board did not need to approve a rule already in existence.

According to WMNJ's fall programming schedule, deejays who play Album Oriented Rock (AOR) are restricted to hours outside of primetime listening hours, a fact which caused some confusion. See WMNJ page 3

Baldwin rooms condemned

By Nancy Volkers
Staff Writer

TWO Baldwin rooms were condemned and their former occupants displaced due to continued leakage from the roof and sewage flooding in the basement.

"Baldwin is going through a midlife crisis, of sorts," said Physical Plant Administrator Marjane Geiger.

Earlier in the semester, water broke through the ceiling of room 302, forcing Kim Hutchins and Lindsay Godfrey to relocate in the basement. Baldwin RD Kristine Aurbakken said that room 302 will probably not be used again this year.

According to third floor RA Jenny Morrison, water drips constantly above the stairwells, creating treacherous walking and climbing conditions on the stairs. The leakage has also severely dam-

aged the hall carpeting.

Geiger said that the leaky roof is not a new problem; it has been damaged for quite some time, but repairs were delayed due to contract difficulties which occurred over the summer.

The solar panels on the roof had to be removed first, said Geiger, and each successive step in the total repair process involved a thirty day waiting period for approval. "That pretty much ate up the summer as far as repairs," she stated.

The present roofing problems stem not only from aging, but also from temperature changes. "The sun expands the roof," explained Geiger, "opening up the holes and causing the leaks."

Bids are currently being taken for a contractor to replace the entire roof with a single-ply rubber unit from Carlyle Systems. According to Geiger, the contractor should be chosen and the reroof-

ing process begun during the first week in October. Plans call for the renovations to be completed no later than the second week in November.

A mainline blockage occurred in Baldwin's plumbing system on Saturday, September 19, causing flooding in room seven of the basement. Two similar incidents occurred previous to this date, but a plumber from Drew's maintenance staff was able to make the repairs. During the third blockage a man was brought in from Action Plumbing because there was no repairman on campus to respond to the emergency.

According to the plumber, the blockage has been relieved, but a major overhaul of the plumbing system may be necessary if the fixed pipe shifted as it settled.

See BALDWIN page 2

The latest dirt: soil erosion at Drew

By Yuri Cook
Staff Writer

RECENT heavy rains have washed away disconcerting amounts of soil, threatening the landscape of the University in the Forest, asserted members of Drew's biology department and Physical Plant.

Biology lab instructor Ronald Ross emphasized that although soil erosion is a natural phenomenon, it poses a serious problem for Drew.

Dirt has begun to cover walkways on campus; the paths in front of Haselton, for example, are nearly half covered by soil washed down from the area in front of Baldwin.

Parking lots are also showing the effects of soil erosion. A lot behind Sitterly

House has nearly 2 inches of dirt collected along its edge.

The problem, however, is not solely cosmetic. Dr. Sara Webb of the Drew biology department pointed out that the loss of topsoil is in itself a serious problem. The lost soil, she said, is "irreplaceable, a special layer filled with nutrients and microorganisms" critical to the environmental ecosystem. This layer provides the nourishment for trees and plants used in landscaping.

Webb noted that the soil loss "could certainly hurt the trees," an integral part of Drew's landscape. The trees need the soil to cover their roots not only so that nutrients may be absorbed, but also to provide stability for their considerable height. The area in front of the U.C., added Webb, "could use some special

attention." In some cases, trees have lost almost a foot of soil at the top of the roots, leaving the trunk bases exposed.

The source of the problem lies primarily in the destruction of erosion-preventing ground cover, especially grass. It is the roots of these plants that hold soil particles together.

Lack of adequate sunlight is also a factor in the problem, especially in front of the U.C. Few grasses are able to survive under the dense canopy of shade provided by the oaks and other trees, Webb explained. Since no forest brush remains, there is little plant life available to slow soil erosion in this area.

Originally, said Dr. Webb, the campus was covered with forest scrub, but a decision was made to create a "grass and tree campus" rather than an "enclosed

forest." The main problem here, she explained, is that people walk across the lawns and alongside the paths.

The damage done to soil compaction in these instances is serious enough to wear it away and prevent regrowth; without grass roots to hold the soil in place, said Webb, the topsoil is easily washed away by runoff water during rains.

Brian Patane, a spokesperson for the groundskeeping department, added that another major cause of erosion is compaction of the soil by vehicles on campus trails. "This is very detrimental to lawns," said Patane, "especially if the soil is saturated."

He stated that an enormous amount of damage was done when students drove to see Erosion page 3